

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

PHILIP W. BUCHEN

FREDERICK D. NICHOLS

VICTORINE DU PONT HOMSEY

KEVIN ROCHE

ELI S. JACOBS

EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

November 4, 1980

AM

10:00

CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Dates of next meetings: December 9, 1980
January 13, 1980
- B. Approval of October 7, 1980 minutes
- C. Flood Plain Moratorium, D.C. Bill 3-380 Hearing
(November 18, 1980, 2:00 p.m.)
- D. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Design Competition
- E. Billboard Sign Regulation, proposed standards,
27 D.C. Register 3256-3259 (July 25, 1980)

10:15

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

- A. District of Columbia Department of Housing and
Community Development
 - 1. Old Georgetown Act
 - a. O.G. 81-15, 1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.
New office/apartment/commercial building
 - b. O.G. 80-159, 2833 M Street, N.W. Revisions to
mechanical system and miscellaneous architectural
and structural changes.
 - c. O.G. 81-4, 3222 M Street, N.W. Construct a two
level pedestrian bridge between 3222 M Street and
3225 Grace Street.
 - d. Appendix I

A. District of Columbia, Department of Housing and
Community Development Continued

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

- a. S.L. 81-6, 2112 F Street, N.W. New residential, commercial and parking.
- b. S.L. 81-2, 2643 Virginia Avenue, N.W. Erect a canopy over gasoline island. Remodel service station as per plans.
- c. Appendix II

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

November 4, 1980

<u>O.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 80-61	1099 30th Street, N.W.	Construction of new office building.
PA. 80-297	Morrison Corporation	

ACTION: Returned to D.C. Landmarks Committee due to inaction by applicant to respond to the Commission's recommendation.

O.G. 80-123	3336-40 M Street, N.W.	Raze one story warehouse and garage.
PA. 80-528	Bacoe & Company, Inc.	

ACTION: Issue permit for razing warehouse. Structure has little architectural or historical value and does not contribute to the historic district.

O.G. 80-126	1855 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.	Kiosk design and sign for store.
PA. 80-532	Safeway Stores	

ACTION: Issue permit for kiosk signs in style and size submitted for 9 September 1980 review.

O.G. 80-133	3301 K Street, N.W.	New construction
HPA. 80-559	Potomac Power and Electric Co.	

ACTION: Preliminary scheme for new construction and retention of existing south and east walls approved subject to submission of working drawings, material samples, and further study on authenticity of infill window areas for review. The Commission is aware that demolition work associated with this project is subject to possible litigation and submits its recommendations regarding the design in the event the project is allowed to proceed.

O.G. 80-138	Rear 1232 31st Street, N.W.	Raze two story masonry and stucco alley structure.
HPA. 80-574	RSSN & Associates	

ACTION: Issue permit for razing single structure along west alley on south side of lot 871, adjoining lot 857. Structure does not contribute sufficiently to the historic district to warrant retention. Request special caution be taken to protect adjacent partywall building which is to be retained.

O.G. 80-140	1226 31st Street, N.W.	<u>CONCEPTUAL REVIEW</u> Repair and add to existing structure.
HPA. 80-577	RSSN & Associates	

ACTION: Preliminary concept approved for renovation of frame structures on 31st Street, including alterations to rear elevations of building, but not including any alterations to rooflines and profiles as visible from 31st Street. Commission recommends retention of present roof configuration, because of its contributing value as part of the evolution of the buildings at Hamilton Arms. Request detailed working drawings be submitted for review prior to issuance of permit.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

November 4, 1980

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
O.G. 80-140 HPA. 80-576	1220-1222 31st Street, N.W. RSSN & Associates	<u>CONCEPTUAL REVIEW</u> Repair existing, no change to building height or roof slope. New rear addition. Replace existing wood frame with new masonry and stucco finish.

ACTION: Preliminary concept approved for renovation of frame structures on 31st Street, including alterations to rear elevations of buildings, but not including any alteration to rooflines and profiles as visible from 31st Street. Commission recommends retention of present roof configuration, because of its contributing value as part of the evolution of the buildings at Hamilton Arms. Request detailed working drawings be submitted for review prior to issuance of permit.

O.G. 80-143 to 80-147 HPA. 80-586 to 80-590	1718 - 1726 34th Street, N.W. Wallace F. Holladay	Raze existing structure (garage) by hand and clear area for continued parking use.
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ACTION: Issue permit for razing warehouse. Structure has little architectural or historical value and does not contribute to the historic district.

O.G. 80-148 to 80-152 HPA. 80-591 to 80-595	1718 - 1726 34th Street, N.W. Wallace F. Holladay	Erect a wood stockade fence (6' tall) the length of the back property line.
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ACTION: Issue permit.

O.G. 80-155 HPA. 80-	3020 K Street, N.W. Western Development Corporation	Residential/retail/office complex with below grade parking.
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ACTION: Do not issue permit. See action from J. Carter Brown to Mr. Moore dated October 21, 1980.

O.G. 80-156 HPA. 80-604	1228 31st Street, N.W. RSSN & Associates	Raze structure
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ACTION: Issue permit for razing of Reid House. Commission action to approve razing is based on severe structural deterioration and extensive alterations to existing frame house, and with the proviso that its present contributing value to the historic district be recalled with the construction of a new garden structure designed to retain the spatial and scale characteristics in the garden resulting from the presence of the existing structure. Design of replacement structure subject to further review prior to issuance of permit for construction.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

November 4, 1980

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 80-161	3222 N Street, N.W.	Vertical double faced sign 2' - 3'.
HPA. 80-620	Thomas Tharp	

ACTION: Issue permit for proposed projecting 2' - 0" x 3' - 0" sign. Recommend simple bracket design, mounted into vertical drain slot. This action is an exception and should not be construed as a change in Commission of Fine Arts policy regarding signage of remaining shops in the building.

O.G. 80-162	3024 Q Street, N.W.	Add sliding glass doors and shingle roof over existing porch.
HPA. 80-621	Edward Maffitt	

ACTION: Issue permit for glass enclosed porch with sky-lit shingle roof as submitted.

O.G. 80-163	3400 Prospect Street, N.W.	Erect a storage shed.
HPA. 80-	Prospect Associates	

ACTION: Issue permit for storage shed painted a medium value neutral color. No objection to temporary removal of stone wall at southeast property line for purpose of trash removal access. Wall shall be re-erected to match the existing stone wall.

O.G. 80-164	1211 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.	Addition at rear of building.
HPA. 80-623	Monolith Enterprises	

ACTION: No objection to preliminary designs for second story addition at rear of structure as submitted. Submit working drawings and material samples for approval prior to issuance of permit.

O.G. 81-1	1201 36th Street, N.W.	Renovation of existing building for student housing.
HPA. 81-2	Georgetown University	

ACTION: No objection to preliminary design for conversion of existing buildings to student residential use. Replacement windows will be bronze anodized aluminum sliding sash with transom light. Request working drawings for final review prior to permit issuance.

O.G. 81-2	1249 Congress Court, N.W.	A three story brick office building above 23' x 55'. Rebuild from a burned two story.
HPA. 81-4	Congress Court, Inc.	

ACTION: No objection to concept of increasing building height to three floors. Recommend fenestration be reduced to three bays on entrance elevation. See drawings.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

November 4, 1980

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 81-5 HPA. 81-12	1512 33rd Street, N.W. John Wilwirding	Provide access steps to basement.
ACTION: Issue permit for proposed brick access steps and areaway to basement. Recommend material match existing brick.		
O.G. 81-7 HPA. 81-15	1215 30th Street, N.W. J. Coleman Bean	Third floor addition
ACTION: Issue permit for third floor addition with recommendation that applicant consider simplifying street elevation dormer design by eliminating fan-light, and matching scale of new double-hung window and wood trim with existing windows.		
O.G. 81-10 HPA. 81-19	2616 P Street, N.W. Robert Enzel	Manufacture and install one freestanding sign.
ACTION: Issue permit for projecting sign as submitted. Recommend simple bracket for support.		
O.G. 81-12 HPA. 81-23	3411 Dent Place, N.W. Raymond J. Howar	Interior renovation and exterior front relocation of front entrance.
ACTION: Issue permit for renovation and new side entrance. Applicant has agreed to retain existing entrance stoop and door surround.		
O.G. 81-13 HPA. 81-24	1523 28th Street, N.W. Steven Kurzman	Addition on second floor in areaway, extending existing projection in areaway forward.
ACTION: Issue permit for second floor areaway infill as submitted.		

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

November 4, 1980

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
S.L. 80-68	2112 F Street, N.W. 2112 F Street Associates	Graphics on bridge
ACTION: No objection to barricade and sign pending approval of working drawings and material samples as requested in S.L. 79-24.		
S.L. 80-70	2036 G Street, N.W. George Washington University	Park, benches, planting and paving.
ACTION: Issue permit. Brick for retaining walls to be in dark red range.		
S.L. 80-72	Oakwood Terrace & 17th Street Jonathan Woodner	Townhouses
ACTION: Returned to D.C. Permits Branch without action. Request submission of case for Fine Arts review when all pending actions by the BZA have been completed and all zoning approvals have been obtained.		
S.L. 80-73	600 19th Street, N.W. George Washington University	New 12 story office building
ACTION: Issue permit for new office building. The architect will submit samples of materials for review. Recommend application of vertical elements (as examples, flag poles or pergola) on west roof terrace to balance east tower structure.		
S.L. 80-77	500 C Street, S.W. Donohoe Company	Install cut out channel plastic faced letters as per sketch.
ACTION: Issue permit. No signs are to be attached to building above the second floor level as noted on attached drawings.		
S.L. 81-1	1730 Crestwood Drive Bruce Kleiner	Revision of basement windows addition of rear deck, renovation of basement.
ACTION: Issue permit. No objection to proposed basement window enlargement or deck.		

C. Flood Plain Moratorium, D.C. Bill 3-380, hearing (18 November, 1980, 2:00 p.m.) The Secretary commented that he was uncertain whether the staff should make a formal appearance at this hearing, since the bill was concerned primarily with the effects of development south of K Street, where the Commission has been reviewing a major project. Both the Chairman and Mr. Buchen said they would have misgivings about the Commission's getting involved in what was essentially a matter outside the realm of design review. The Secretary agreed, while noting that the bill had considerable support in the Council.

D. Vietnam Veterans Memorial, design competition. The Assistant Secretary, who had attended a meeting on this subject, reviewed the passage of the legislation providing for a memorial at the western end of Constitution Gardens. He said the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund had presented its plans at this meeting, attended by the National Park Service and other interested agencies. He reported that there will be a competition within the next six months, with the entries to be judged by a professional jury. Architect Paul Spreiregen, FAIA, has been retained as professional advisor. He said the preference of the organization was for a quiet landscape solution, incorporating the names of the 57,000 whose lives were lost during the conflict.

E. Billboard Sign Regulation, proposed standards, 27 D.C. Register 3256-3259 (25 July 1980). The Secretary reported that he had consulted with Tony Kushner of the Interior Department's Solicitor General's office on this matter. He was informed that Interior had submitted comments on the temporary regulations but had not yet made a decision to join in any legal action the city government might take. The Secretary said the temporary regulations would be adopted in an informal capacity, but the ultimate solution would have to be an amendment to the D.C. sign regulations.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman informally inserted another item on the administrative agenda: the presentation of a certificate to Secretary Charles H. Atherton, commending him for twenty years of dedicated service to the Commission of Fine Arts. The certificate, designed and executed by staff members Jeffrey Carson and Richard Ryan, was signed by the members of the Commission, the Georgetown Board, and the staff.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development.

1. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 81-15, 1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W. New office/apartment/commercial building. The Assistant Secretary reviewed the Commission's request in July that the architect make further studies in an attempt to reduce both the actual and cornice line heights. He noted the receipt of a letter from Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, the architects, outlining the four revisions made to accomplish this. (Exhibit B) Architect David Childs was then introduced to discuss these revisions further. He said the actual height had been reduced nearly six feet and the cornice line lowered eight feet seven inches,

thus making the building "step down" from the Foundry when viewed from the sidewalk level. The seventh and eighth floors had also been set back further, particularly at the southern end. This, with the new visible cornice height of fifty-six feet nine inches at K Street helped considerably to set the building back from the freeway and reduce the scale. The highest point on K Street would be eighty-three feet two inches. Mr. Childs said the reduced height had caused some problems, particularly with the northern end of the arcade, where the arches had become too low and the flow through the courtyard not as satisfactory as before. He suggested that a slight relaxation of height restrictions, perhaps two feet, would help solve these details. There had been some facade refinements since the last presentation also, which Mr. Childs pointed out on the rendering.

Thomas Wright reported that the Georgetown Board had found the design improved and was pleased with the reduction in height. He said, however, that the Board had been concerned about the effect on the northern part of the arcade and thought a slight increase in height could be allowed, especially since a major improvement had been made in the southern section of the building by pulling it back from the freeway.

Donald Shannon, president of the Citizens' Association of Georgetown, asked to comment. He said that although he liked the design, he was still concerned about the height and thought the usual limit of approximately 65' should be adhered to. He noted that the building would be quite visible from the heights of Georgetown and would obscure the views of the river. Conversely, those walking along K Street would have their view of the heights obscured. He thought the height should be brought down to the visual cornice line.

The Chairman suggested that the architects make sight-line studies of the effect of the building both from the heights and the waterfront level. He noted that one story had not really been removed from the project, as was requested, but that if the height were cut from the third chimney south to the K Street frontage, the scale would be measurably improved. Mr. Childs said it would be difficult to cut the height at K Street without affecting the entire building. He noted also that all mechanical systems were inside, rather than on top of the building. He said more studies would be made and another presentation made at a future meeting.

b. O.G. 80-159, 2833 M Street, N.W. Revisions to mechanical system and miscellaneous architectural and structural changes. The Assistant Secretary reviewed this project for the members; it was approved in September 1979. He said that changes were being requested for the north facade: the three dormers would be removed and the mechanical equipment placed behind a simple screened area. The members agreed with the Georgetown Board's reaction; that the elevation was not as attractive without the dormers, that it was now just a hipped roof structure resembling a warehouse. It was suggested that it could be articulated more, to give it some interest, as it will be quite visible from Twenty-ninth Street.

c. O.G. 81-4, 3222 M Street, N.W. Construct a two level pedestrian bridge between 3222 M Street and 3225 Grace Street. The Assistant Secretary noted that the working drawings for this bridge were not the same as the preliminaries approved in November 1977. The Georgetown Board had asked that the bridge be slimmed down, and the design coordinated with the Park Service. The bridge was to be glass enclosed, and the Board asked that the dark solar glass shown be changed to clear glass.

d. Appendix 1. Because of the lack of a quorum, the Secretary said he would circulate a memo by mail requesting approval.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 81-6, 2112 F Street, N.W. New residential, commercial and parking. The Assistant Secretary reviewed the Commission's approval of the demolition of the Atherton apartments on this site and said that the architect for the new building, Arthur Cotton Moore, and the developer, Robert Wolpe, were presenting their preliminary design at this meeting. He introduced Mr. Moore, who first described the other buildings in the area, saying that they were predominantly bland, light colored brick apartment buildings, ninety feet in height. Drawings for his project showed a structure of simple rectangular forms, with the main facade distinguished by an undulating curve of glass, projecting out four feet and then penetrating back into the recessed entrance. An English basement would house a medical clinic, with the rest of the building devoted to apartments. The members were pleased with the design, though no action could be taken at this meeting.

b. S.L. 81-2, 2643 Virginia Avenue, N.W. Erect a canopy over gasoline island. Remodel service station as per plans. The Secretary said this was a request to substitute yellow and blue fiberglass shingles and fiberglass brick panels for the existing white and blue porcelain on metal panels. The members all thought this a step backward, especially in this area, near the Watergate. It was suggested that a letter might be written to a Sun Oil executive, appealing for a better quality design.

c. Appendix 2. Because of the lack of a quorum, the Secretary said he would circulate a memo by mail requesting approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Signed,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

Exhibit A

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members who attended the October 7, 1980 meeting.

FROM: Charles H. Atherton *CH*

DATE: November 5, 1980

Enclosed are copies of the October 7, 1980 minutes of the Commission and the Appendices for actions taken under the Old Georgetown and Shipstead-Luce Acts, both scheduled for action at the November 4, 1980 meeting, but deferred due to a lack of quorum.

Please indicate your approval as noted below and return to me at your earliest convenience.

A. October 7, 1980 Minutes

APPROVED ☒

DISAPPROVED _____

COMMENTS: _____

B. Appendix I, Old Georgetown Act

APPROVED ☒

DISAPPROVED _____

COMMENTS: _____

C. Appendix II, Shipstead-Luce Act

APPROVED ☒

DISAPPROVED _____

COMMENTS: _____

J. Carter Brown
J. Carter Brown

RECEIVED

NOV 10 10 44 AM '80

DIRECTOR'S
OFFICE

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

NOV 24 1980

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members who attended the October 7, 1980 meeting.

FROM: Charles H. Atherton *CH*

DATE: November 5, 1980

NOTED _____

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DISAPPROVED _____

COMMENTS: _____

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APPROVED ☒

DISAPPROVED _____

COMMENTS: _____

C. Appendix II, Shipstead-Luce Act

APPROVED ☒

DISAPPROVED _____

COMMENTS: _____

E.D. Sheh.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

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A. October 7, 1980 Minutes

APPROVED *X*

DISAPPROVED _____

COMMENTS: _____

B. Appendix I, Old Georgetown Act

APPROVED *X*

DISAPPROVED _____

COMMENTS: _____

C. Appendix II, Shipstead-Luce Act

APPROVED *X*

DISAPPROVED _____

COMMENTS: _____

Philip W. Buckner

THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
CAMPBELL HALL
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.
22903

December 4, 1980

Charles Atherton
Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

File

Dear Charlie:

I am enclosing the approvals for the meetings.

All the best!
Yours,

Frederick D. Nichols/len

Frederick D. Nichols, FAIA
Langhorne Professor of Architecture

FDN/len
Enclosure

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEC 9 1980

NOTED

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

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A. October 7, 1980 Minutes

APPROVED *W*

DISAPPROVED _____

COMMENTS: _____

B. Appendix I, Old Georgetown Act

APPROVED *W*

DISAPPROVED _____

COMMENTS: _____

C. Appendix II, Shipstead-Luce Act

APPROVED *W*

DISAPPROVED _____

COMMENTS: _____

October 24, 1980

Exhibit B

The Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place
Washington, D.C. 20006

Members of the Commission:

In response to your comments on our July 1980 submission of concept drawings for a new mixed-use building at 1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W., we herewith submit new drawings which incorporate revisions to the design as follows:

1. The actual height of the building has been reduced 5'-11", bringing it even with the top of the Foundry building and making the height of the building 75'-2" above its measuring point.
2. The first parapet (cornice line) has been lowered 8'-7", making a visible step down from the Foundry when viewed from the sidewalk. The height of this cornice above the sidewalk at the measuring point would be 48'-9". At the lowest point of the surrounding sidewalk (the southwest corner) this cornice would be 57'-10" high.
3. The top of the second parapet (the apparent roof top of the building from the street) has been lowered 4'-7", or 60'-5" above the measuring point.

Note: We feel that revisions 2 and 3 have resulted in a better proportioned cap for the building.

4. The 7th and 8th floors have been set back approximately 6' (18' at S.W. corner) farther from the southern building edge which, in combination with the reduced cornice line, makes the building "step away" more at the south end.

EXHIBIT B

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OCT 24 1980

